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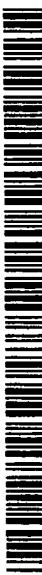
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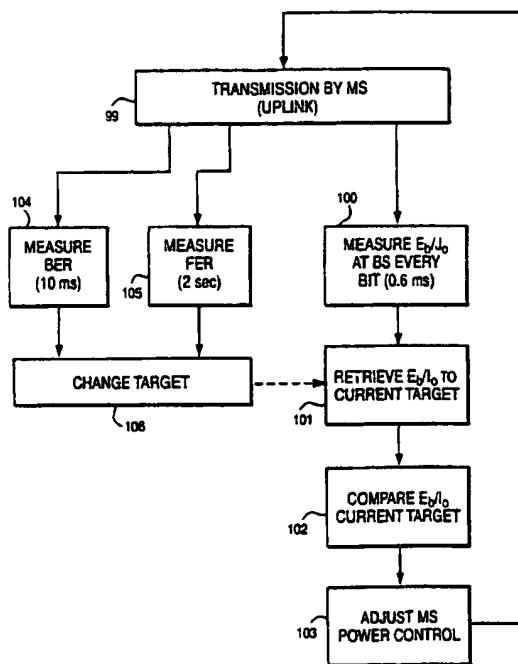
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(54) Title: POWER CONTROL BASED ON COMBINED TRANSMISSION QUALITY ESTIMATES



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(57) Abstract: A wireless telecommunications system is described in which mobile station power control is affected by a functional combination of signal-to-interference sampling, bit error rate sampling, and frame error rate sample. The signal-to-interference sampling provides rapid power control adjustment, while the bit error rate and frame error rate factors provide less speedy but better power control adjustment. The mobile station power control function has applicability in single link and multiple link power control adjustments.

POWER CONTROL BASED ON COMBINED TRANSMISSION QUALITY ESTIMATES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

5 The present invention relates to wireless communication systems, and more particularly, to a method and apparatus for efficiently controlling power levels in a mobile radio.

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 In a typical cellular radio system, a geographical area is divided into cell areas served by base stations which are connected to a radio network. Each user (mobile subscriber) in the cellular radio system is provided with a portable, pocket, hand-held, or car mounted mobile station which communicates voice and/or data with the mobile network. Each base station includes a plurality of channel units including a transmitter, a receiver, and a controller and may be equipped an omni-directional antenna for transmitting equally in all directions or with directional antennas, each 15 directional antenna serving a particular sector cell. Each mobile station also includes a transmitter, a receiver, a controller, and a user interface and is identified by a specific mobile station 20 identifier. Each mobile subscriber is identified by another

identifier, e.g., an international mobile subscription number (IMSI).

The present invention is described in the non-limiting, example context of a universal mobile telecommunications 5 (UMTS) 10 shown in Fig. 1. A representative, connection-oriented, external core network, shown as a cloud 12 may be for example the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) and/or the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN). A representative, connectionless-oriented external core network shown as a 10 cloud 14, may be for example the Internet. Both core networks are coupled to corresponding service nodes 16. The PSTN/IDSN connection-oriented network 12 is connected to a connection-oriented service node shown as a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) node 18 that provides circuit-switched services. In the existing 15 GSM model, the MSC 18 is connected over an interface A to a Base Station Subsystem (BSS) 22 which in turn is connected to radio base station 23 over interface A'. The Internet connectionless-oriented network 14 is connected to a General 20 Packet Radio Service (GPRS) node 20 tailored to provide packet-switched type services sometimes referred to as the serving GPRS service node (SGSN). Each of the core network service nodes 18 and 20 connects to a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN) 24 over a radio access network (RAN) interface. UTRAN 24 includes one or more radio network controllers 26. 25 Each RNC 26 is connected to a plurality of base stations (BS) 28 and to any other RNCs in the UTRAN 24.

Preferably, radio access is based upon wideband, Code Division Multiple Access (WCDMA) with individual radio channels allocated using CDMA spreading codes. Of course, other access methods may be employed. WCDMA provides wide 5 bandwidth for multimedia services and other high transmission rate demands as well as robust features like diversity handoff and RAKE receivers to ensure high quality.

The mobile stations 30 use transmission codes so base station 28 can identify transmissions from that particular MS 30.

10 In the current WCDMA standard, codes are supposed to be allocated as follows for the dedicated channels:

- a) the uplink and downlink transmission is using channelization codes, and on top of that a scrambling code;
- b) the channelization code determines e.g., the spreading factor, and the spreading factor determines the maximum bitrate;
- c) mobiles in the same cell using the same frequency and the same spreading factor use different channelizations codes for the downlink channels but the same scrambling code; and
- d) mobiles in other cells use the same channelization codes 20 but different scrambling codes.

The scrambling codes secure the integrity, between downlink transmissions using the same channelization code but in different cells. The scrambling code used in uplink secure the

integrity between uplink transmissions from different mobile stations in the same or in other cell.

Thus, the MS gets its own scrambling code while the BS transmission to a specific mobile on a dedicated channel will use a 5 common scrambling code but a unique channelization code. The MS have the ability to combine a downlink transmission using a different scrambling codes and different channelization codes (one limitation today is that the spreading factor of the channelization codes must be the same from all cells).

10 The radio network controller 26 and base station 28 shown in Fig. 2 are radio network nodes that each include a corresponding data processing and control unit 32 and 33 for performing numerous radio and data processing operations required to conduct communications between the RNC 26 and the 15 mobile stations 30. Part of the equipment controlled by the base station data processing and control unit 33 includes plural radio transceivers 34 connected to one or more antennas 35. The mobile station 30 shown in Fig. 3 also includes a data processing and control unit 36 for controlling the various operations required by 20 the mobile station. The mobile's data processing and control unit 36 provides control signals as well as data to a radio transceiver 37 connected to an antenna 38.

25 The present invention may be employed in the context of the example mobile communications system 10 shown in Fig. 1 in which the radio network controllers 26 and base stations 28 form a

radio access network between a core network node (like the MSC 16) and the mobile stations 30.

It is important for the mobile stations 30 to maintain appropriate power levels when communicating with the base station 28 in order to prevent one mobile station from overwhelming communications from other mobile stations in the transmission area. Because the power level for mobile stations is a critical parameter for maintaining good communication quality within a particular cell, is valuable for power control to be performed as often as possible. Ideally, each mobile station is continually monitored to ensure that its power levels are high enough to provide good transmission quality yet no higher than necessary to provide that transmission quality and no higher than will create unreasonable interference with other mobile station communications. The invention also applies to maintenance of proper power level in the base station transmission.

In prior systems, very fast power control of mobile station communications was typically performed by the network in Figure 1 using signal-to-interference (E_b/I_o) measurements. The signal-to-interference measurements were typically performed over a couple of pilot symbols contained in each slot. The measured E_b/I_o for the uplink slot is compared to a target and the Transmission Power Control ("TPC") bits in the next downlink slot is set to order a one step increase or decrease of the mobile station power. Although signal-to-interference measurements are

an extremely rapid power control parameter, varying and different propagation conditions cause the E_b/I_o parameter to be less than accurate in determining whether a mobile station should be commanded to increase or decrease its transmit power. There are 5 several possible reasons for this inaccuracy:

- If the E_b/I_o is changing to fast, e.g., due to a fast moving mobile, the power control delay will be to large and the power adjustment will come too late to be able to counteract the changed E_b/I_o .
- 10 • Also the measured E_b/I_o estimate will not be valid for the whole slot since the true E_b/I_o changes during non-measured time periods during a slot.
- The radio propagation conditions, e.g., rapid variation in the number of radio paths used, will affect the E_b/I_o estimate in a negative manner.
- 15

In addition, to accuracy of the E_b/I_o based power control, the E_b/I_o estimate inability to reflect the true end user perceived quality also creates a problem. The end user perceived quality is more accurately estimated by using estimated frame error rate.

20 To increase accuracy, it has been proposed that frame error rates (FER) be used as a more accurate power control parameter. Frame error rates identify the accuracy of frame transmissions and are good indicators of power control. Unfortunately, FER

parameters are slowly calculated so power control is not quickly achieved using FER as a measurement.

To illustrate this difference, Figure 4 shows a WCDMA frame protocol. Each mobile station MS communicates with a base station BS using the WCDMA frame protocol shown. The uplink physical control channel is used to carry control information including known pilot bits to support channel estimation for coherent detection, transmit power-control (TPC) commands, feedback information (FBI), and an optional transport-format combination indicator (TFCI). The transport-format combination indicator informs the receiver about the instantaneous parameters of the different transport channels multiplexed on the uplink channel, and corresponds to the data transmitted in the same frame.

Figure 4 shows the frame structure of the uplink dedicated physical channels. Each frame of length 10 ms is split into 16 slots, each of length $T_{slot} = 0.625$ ms, corresponding to one power-control period. A super frame corresponds to 72 consecutive frames, i.e., the super-frame length is 720 ms.

Controlling the power level between the mobile station MS and the base station BS is a continual process. If it is done bit-by-bit (or symbol-by-symbol), in accordance with the E_b/I_o formula, the mobile station will receive very fast power control correction but such corrections may not be particularly accurate. For the example embodiment of Figure 4, frames of 10 milliseconds

duration includes of 16 slots so an E_b/I_o measurement each slot will yield an E_b/I_o value correction every 0.625 milliseconds to adjust power by a predetermined dB (for example, 1 dB). On the other hand, if a frame error rate is used, power control is better

5 able to maintain a desired end user perceived quality during semi-static conditions, but occurs too slowly since just one frame error determination requires at least the 10 ms needed to receive the frame. For a fast moving mobile station, slow power correction can cause a significant problem where the mobile continually ends

10 up in high power/low power conditions which remain uncorrected for significant durations. In addition, the proximity of the estimated E_b/I_o to the true E_b/I_o changes with changing radio conditions, as does the mapping between E_b/I_o and end user quality--both of which are effected by first moving mobiles.

15 Consequently, E_b/I_o provides fast power control but is not particularly accurate at determining appropriate power conditions for subsequent transmissions. Frame error rates provide more accurate power control but occur too slowly. The present invention utilizes a function determined by E_b/I_o (fast but less

20 accurate), bit error rate BER (slower but more accurate), and FER (still slower but still more accurate) as a method of determining power control.

The present invention applies equally to single links and plural links (soft handovers).

The present invention also applies to both/either power control of base station transmitters and/or mobile station transmitters. Thus, although the present description is provided by reference to power control of the uplink (MS transmitter), the 5 invention covers and applies to power control of the downlink (base station transmitter) as well.brief description of the drawings

The foregoing and other objects, features, and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following description of preferred embodiments as well as illustrated in the accompanying 10 drawings in which reference characters refer to the same parts throughout. While individual functional blocks and components are shown in many of the figures, those skilled in the art will appreciate that these functions may be performed by individual hardware circuits, by a suitably programmed digital 15 microprocessor, by an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), and/or by one or more digital signaling processors (DSPs).

FIGURE 1 illustrates an example mobile communications system in which the present invention may be employed;

20 FIGURE 2 is a function block diagram of a base station shown in Fig. 1;

FIGURE 3 is a function block diagram of a mobile station shown in Fig. 1;

FIGURE 4 is an example WCDMA transmission frame protocol; and

FIGURE 5 illustrates in flowchart form an example routine performed in accordance with an example embodiment of the
5 present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the following description, for purposes of explanation and not limitation, specific details are set forth, such as particular
10 embodiments, data flows, signaling implementations, protocols, techniques, etc., in order to provide an understanding of the present invention. However, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced in other embodiments that depart from these specific details. For example,
15 the invention applies to MS power control and to BS power control. Instead of BER, other signal processing related parameters can be used e.g., soft information from viterbi decoding etc. In some instances, detailed descriptions of well-known methods, interfaces, devices, and signaling techniques are
20 omitted so as not to obscure the description of the present invention with unnecessary detail.

The process of adjusting the mobile station power is illustrated in an example embodiment in Figure 5. There, a transmission by a mobile station occurs at step 99. At step 100,

E_b/I_o signal-to-interference measurements are taken at the base station usually on the pilot symbols in each slot. This sampling occurs very fast (on the order of 0.625 milliseconds per total measurements), providing a fast power correction measurement.

- 5 At step 101, a target E_b/I_o is retrieved. At step 102, the retrieved E_b/I_o target figure is compared with the E_b/I_o measurement taken at step 100. At step 103, mobile station power control is adjusted based on the comparison made at step 102.

According to the present invention, the mobile station
10 transmits power according to:

$$\text{MS (TX power)} = f(\text{FER}, E_b/I_o, \text{BER})$$

$$\text{Similarly, BS (TX power)} = f(\text{FER}, E_b/I_o, \text{BER})$$

According to the example embodiment of Figure 5, the power correction measurement step 103 is also influenced by
15 slower, but more accurate, bit error rate (BER) and frame error rate (FER) measurements at steps 104-106. At step 104, BER is measured from a sampling of the transmission of step 99. Each BER sample is included approximately every 10 milliseconds and thus occurs more slowly than the step 100, which occurs
20 approximately every 0.625 milliseconds. Further, FER measured at step 105 reflects the perceived end user quality, but occurs only every 2 seconds. The results of the BER measurement and FER measurement at steps 104 and 105 are compared to target BER and FER values and the comparison used to modify the target E_b/I_o .

figure at step 106. The target change at 106 will change as soon as there is new information on BER or FER, i.e., in the example described, every frame. However, the typical average target change frequency is expected to be much slower and will thus 5 occur more slowly than the constant E_b/I_o measurements of step 100. Thus, the target changed at step 106 is stored and becomes the new "current target" employed at step 101 following the next subsequent measurement of E_b/I_o at step 100.

FER measurements can follow standard kinds of frame error 10 rate measurements including, for example, CRC calculation and comparisons. If the CRC does not match, a frame error is recorded. A predetermined number of consecutive frame errors (or some other protocol of repetitious frame errors) indicates inadequate transmission power. CRC errors affect the E_b/I_o target 15 at step 106 typically, but may also directly cause a power increase order to be issued. Accordingly, at step 103, the mobile station may be instructed to increase transmission power 1dB.

Of course FER is not a good indication by itself of when to reduce power because a series of consecutive good frame 20 recoveries (no frame errors) does not necessarily indicate that mobile station power can be reduced. Consequently, at step 104, a received number of bits in a frame is compared with a known number reported in a time slot field. The number of bit errors is divided by the time slot (10 milliseconds) to determine BER for 25 every 10 milliseconds. This BER figure is compared with a target

at step 104 to determine adjustments to E_b/I_o target at 106. One skilled in the art will recognize that hysteresis analysis and standard deviation analysis of BER recoveries may also be useful statistical analyses in determining the target change at 106.

5 Because one transport block is sent every frame and the transport block is fault detected by a CRC, the data contained in the transport block is error corrected by a forward error correction coding (FEC). Thus, the BER will typically be produced at step 104 once every Frame. The following steps can estimate the BER:

- 10 1. Save the received transport block,
2. Use FEC to error correct the bits errors of the FEC bits
3. Check the CRC on the decoded block
4. IF CRC = OK use the same operation as the transmitting side to FEC the data back to the encoded form.
- 15 5. Compare the stored data in 1 with the encoded data in 4
6. The number of bits that differs in 5 is the number of bits that were received with an error.
7. The BER is the number of bit errors in 6 divided by the total number of FEC data bits in the original transport block.

20 In the example of step 104, a frame of time slots (10 milliseconds) is employed but some number greater or less than a frame of time slots may be more or less advantageous depending upon the circumstances.

Similarly, the FER measurement at step 105 will occur every 10 milliseconds (1 per frame) but one FER calculation is not statistically accurate so one must average multiple frames. In the example of step 105, 2 seconds of frames may be employed. Of course, more or less frame numbers may be used in the statistical sampling depending upon the quality of service specified. For example, a 10% FER quality of service can be obtained with the 2 seconds of statistical sampling shown in step 105. Alternatively, a 1% FER quality of service can be determined by extending the sample to 5 to 10 second statistical sampling intervals.

Although the use of the BER and FER measurements in 104 and 105 is not particular to the present invention in terms of how the E_b/I_o target is changed in step 106, one method of determining the E_b/I_o target change at step 106 is to compare the respective BER and FER measurements at steps 104 and 105 to predetermined target BER and FER Figures. Hysteresis analysis can be used to determine the difference between the measured BERs/FERs in steps 104 and 105 and the target BER/FERs. That is, the size of the increments in the target change of step 106 depends on the speed of the loops identified in the hysteresis analysis comparing the measured BERs/FERs with the target BERs/FERs in steps 104 and 105. Faster loops yield smaller target increments at step 106, while slower loops yield larger increments at step 106. Further, magnitude changes in BER to target BER and FER to target FER will also be indicative of the target change at step 106.

If multiple radio links are employed, for example between one mobile station and multiple base stations, the example embodiment of the present invention takes into account the FER values on each link. In this instance, the targets are adapted for 5 each link to the fact that one or several links are being combined. By being able to use FER and BER targets per link, the E_b/I_o target adjustments can be done locally and do not have to be sent over the interface between the radio network core (RNC) and the base stations. Since target adjustments can be frequent, this will save 10 transmission capacity.

It is assumed that the RNC makes the final combination of radio links. If only one link is used, the FER target for that link is the same target as after combining, and the BER target matches also the typical BER that gives the wanted FER. If two links are 15 used, the FER and BER targets used for each link are adapted so the FER and BER targets will typically be increased to account for the positive effect of combination.

For example, if a total FER after combination of 10% is required and the connection is using one link, this is also the FER 20 target used by the base station. If two links are used and the FER on the links are independent, the FER target for each link can typically be adjusted to:

$$0.1^{0.5} = 0.32 = 32\%$$

Since the FER on each link is probably dependent there is also a need to look at the combined FER and adjust the individual FER targets accordingly but these adjustments are expected to be infrequent.

- 5 While the present invention has been described in the above example embodiment with respect to uplink information transmissions by the mobile station, the present invention can provide equal applicability through measurement of downlink information from the base station to the mobile station.

- 10 While the invention has been described in connection with what is presently considered to be the most practical and preferred embodiment, it is to be understood that the invention is not to be limited to the disclosed embodiment, but on the contrary, is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims.

- 15

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. Mobile radio station power control circuitry, comprising:
 - 2 transmission circuitry transmitting and receiving
 - 3 information between a telecommunications network and a mobile
 - 4 radio; and
 - 5 electronic data processing and control circuitry
 - 6 determining a signal to interference ratio at a first time interval, a
 - 7 bit error rate at a second time interval longer than the first time
 - 8 interval, and a frame error rate at a third time interval longer than
 - 9 the first time interval, and providing a mobile radio transmission
 - 10 power parameter based on the signal to interference ratio, bit error
 - 11 rate, and frame error rate.
- 1 2. A method as in claim 1, wherein the first time interval is
- 2 approximately the duration of a time slot transmission.
- 1 3. A method as in claim 1, wherein the second time
- 2 interval is approximately the duration of a frame transmission.
- 1 4. A method as in claim 1, wherein the third time interval
- 2 is at least the duration of two frame transmissions.
- 1 5. A method as in claim 1, wherein the signal to
- 2 interference ratio is determined approximately for every pilot
- 3 symbol transmitted by the mobile radio.

1 6. A method as in claim 2, wherein the signal to
2 interference ratio is determined approximately for a pilot symbol
3 of every slot transmission transmitted by the mobile radio.

1 7. A method as in claim 3, wherein the bit error rate is
2 determined approximately for every frame transmitted by the
3 mobile radio.

1 8. A method as in claim 4, wherein each frame includes a
2 code indicator and the frame error rate is determined by a
3 comparison of actual CRC mismatches to a predetermined
4 mismatch frequency threshold.

1 9. A method as in claim 1, wherein the electronic data
2 processing and control circuitry determines the transmission
3 power parameter by comparing the signal to interference ratio to a
4 predefined target value.

1 10. A method as in claim 9, wherein the electronic data
2 processing and control circuitry modifies the predefined target
3 value based on a comparison of the determined bit error rate to a
4 predefined target bit error rate.

1 11. A method as in claim 10, wherein the electronic data
2 processing and control circuitry modifies the predefined target
3 value based on a comparison of the determined frame error rate to
4 a predefined target frame error rate.

1 12. A method as in claim 11, wherein the first time interval
2 is approximately the duration of a time slot transmission.

1 13. A method as in claim 11, wherein the second time
2 interval is approximately the duration of a frame transmission.

1 14. A method as in claim 11, wherein the third time
2 interval is at least the duration of two frame transmissions.

1 15. A method as in claim 11, wherein the signal to
2 interference ratio is determined approximately for every pilot
3 symbol transmitted by the mobile radio.

1 16. A method as in claim 12, wherein the signal to
2 interference ratio is determined approximately for a pilot symbol
3 of every slot transmission transmitted by the mobile radio.

1 17. A method as in claim 13, wherein the bit error rate is
2 determined approximately for every frame transmitted by the
3 mobile radio.

1 18. A method as in claim 14, wherein each frame includes a
2 CRC indicator and the frame error rate is determined by a
3 comparison of actual CRC mismatches to a predetermined
4 mismatch frequency threshold.

1 20. A method as in claim 19, wherein the first time interval
2 is approximately the duration of a time slot transmission.

1 21. A method as in claim 19, wherein the second time
2 interval is approximately the duration of a frame transmission.

1 22. A method as in claim 19, wherein the third time
2 interval is at least the duration of two frame transmissions.

1 23. A method as in claim 19, wherein the signal to
2 interference ratio is determined approximately for every pilot
3 symbol transmitted by the mobile radio.

1 24. A method as in claim 20, wherein the signal to
2 interference ratio is determined approximately for a pilot symbol
3 of every slot transmission transmitted by the mobile radio.

1 25. A method as in claim 21, wherein the bit error rate is
2 determined approximately for every frame transmitted by the
3 mobile radio.

1 26. A method as in claim 22, wherein each frame includes a
2 CRC indicator and the frame error rate is determined by a
3 comparison of actual CRC mismatches to a predetermined
4 mismatch frequency threshold.

1 27. A method as in claim 19, wherein the electronic data
2 processing and control circuitry determines the transmission
3 power parameter by comparing the signal to interference ratio to a
4 predefined target value.

1 28. A method as in claim 27, wherein the electronic data
2 processing and control circuitry modifies the predefined target
3 value based on a comparison of the determined bit error rate to a
4 predefined target bit error rate.

1 29. A method as in claim 28, wherein the electronic data
2 processing and control circuitry modifies the predefined target
3 value based on a comparison of the determined frame error rate to
4 a predefined target frame error rate.

1 30. A method as in claim 28, wherein the first time interval
2 is approximately the duration of a time slot transmission.

1 31. A method as in claim 28, wherein the second time
2 interval is approximately the duration of a frame transmission.

1 32. A method as in claim 28, wherein the third time
2 interval is at least the duration of two frame transmissions.

1 33. A method as in claim 28, wherein the signal to
2 interference ratio is determined approximately for every pilot
3 symbol transmitted by the mobile radio.

1 34. A method as in claim 29, wherein the signal to
2 interference ratio is determined approximately for a pilot symbol
3 of every slot transmission transmitted by the mobile radio.

1 35. A method as in claim 30, wherein the bit error rate is
2 determined approximately for every frame transmitted by the
3 mobile radio.

1 36. A method as in claim 31, wherein each frame includes a
2 CRC indicator and the frame error rate is determined by a
3 comparison of actual CRC mismatches to a predetermined
4 mismatch frequency threshold.

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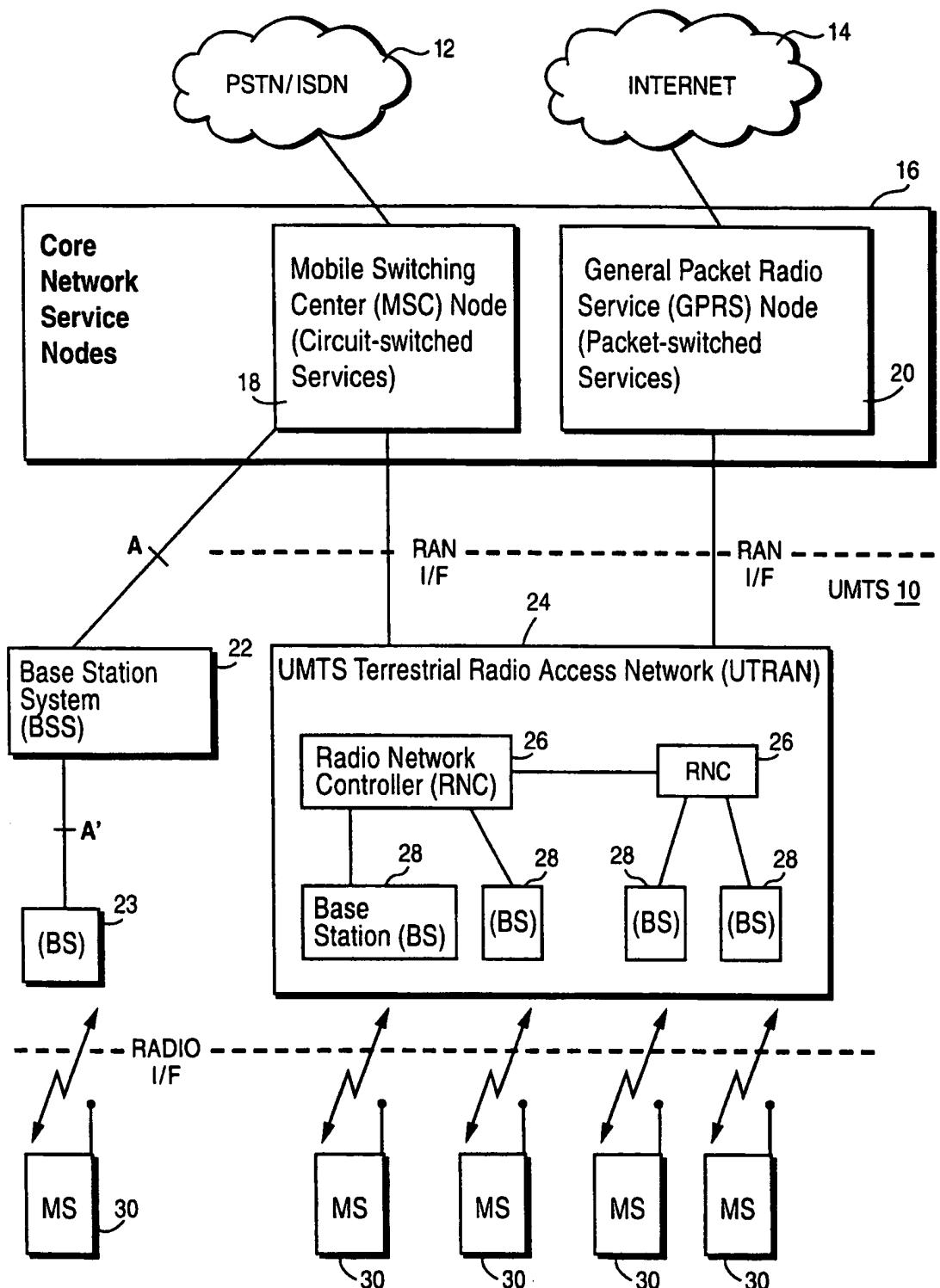


Fig. 1

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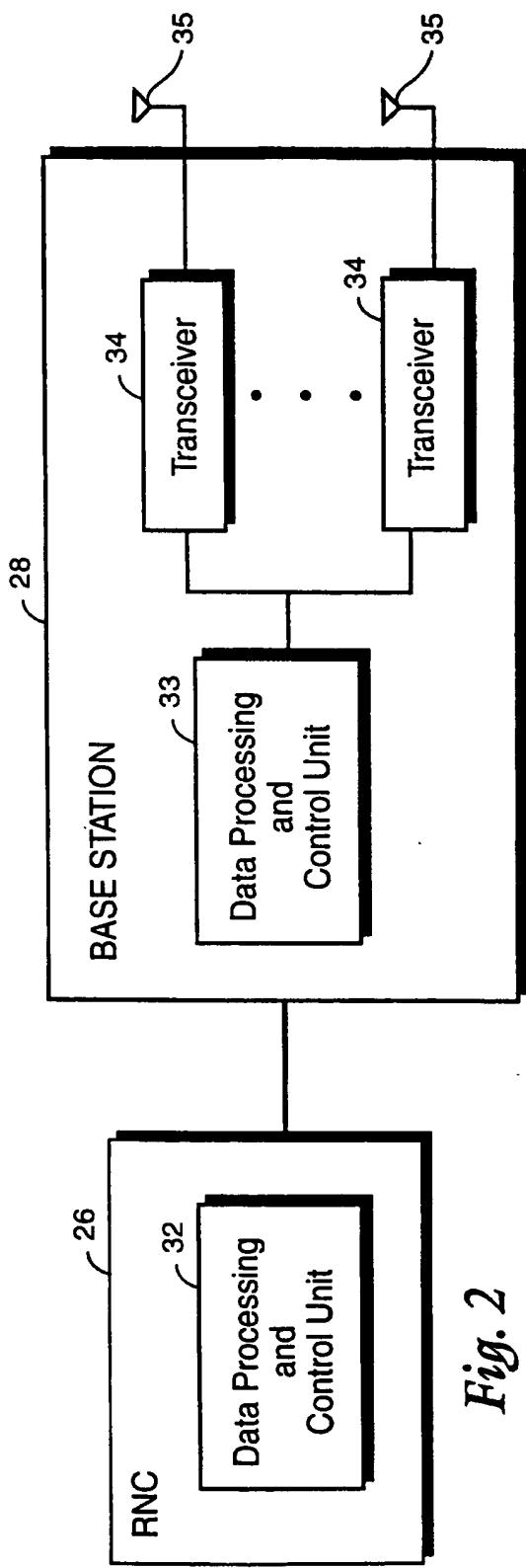


Fig. 2

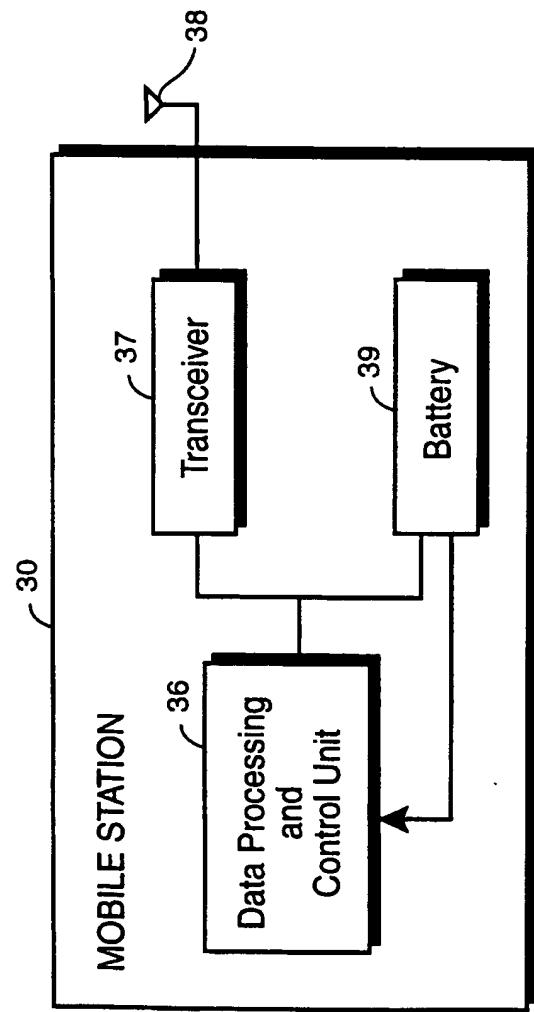


Fig. 3

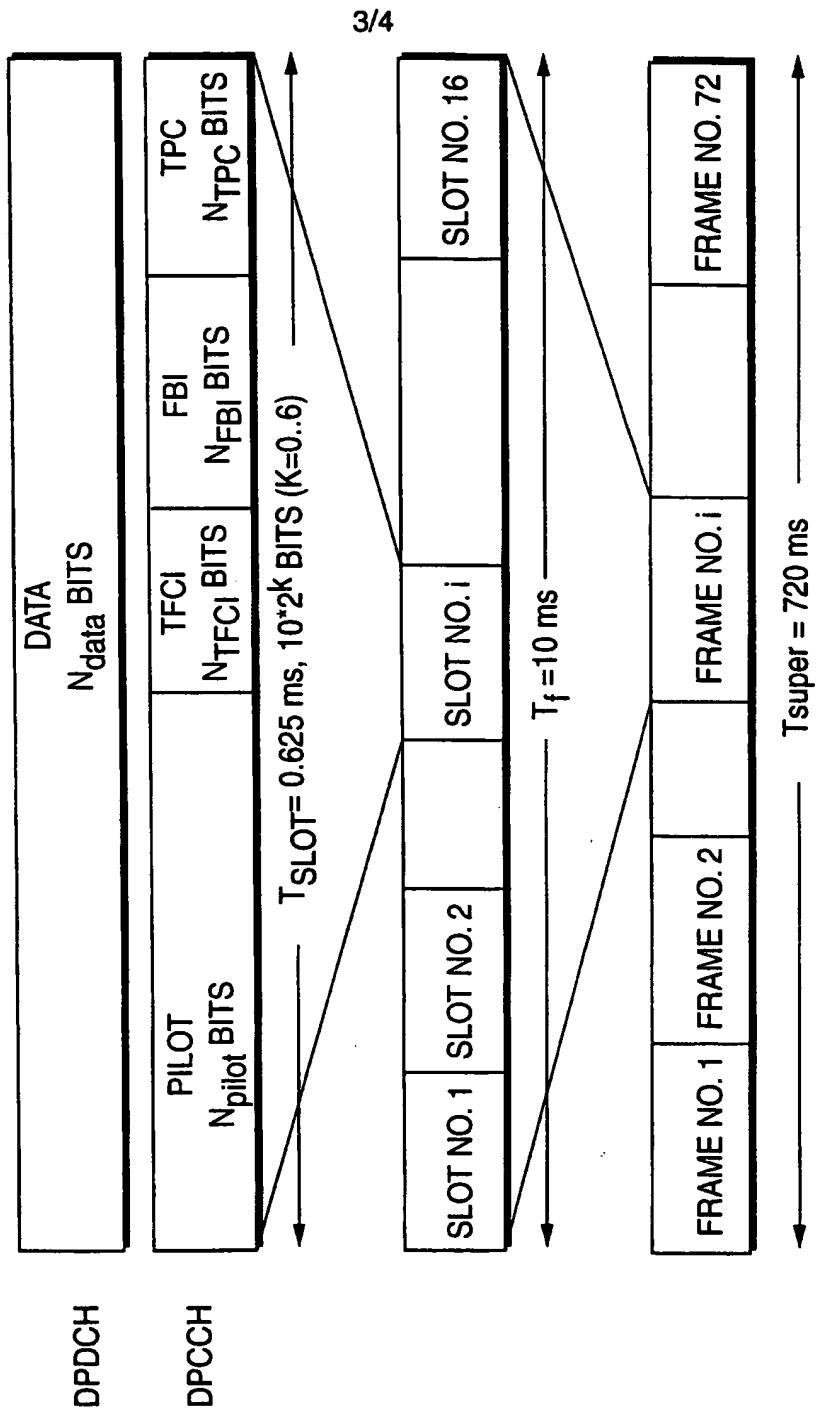


Fig. 4

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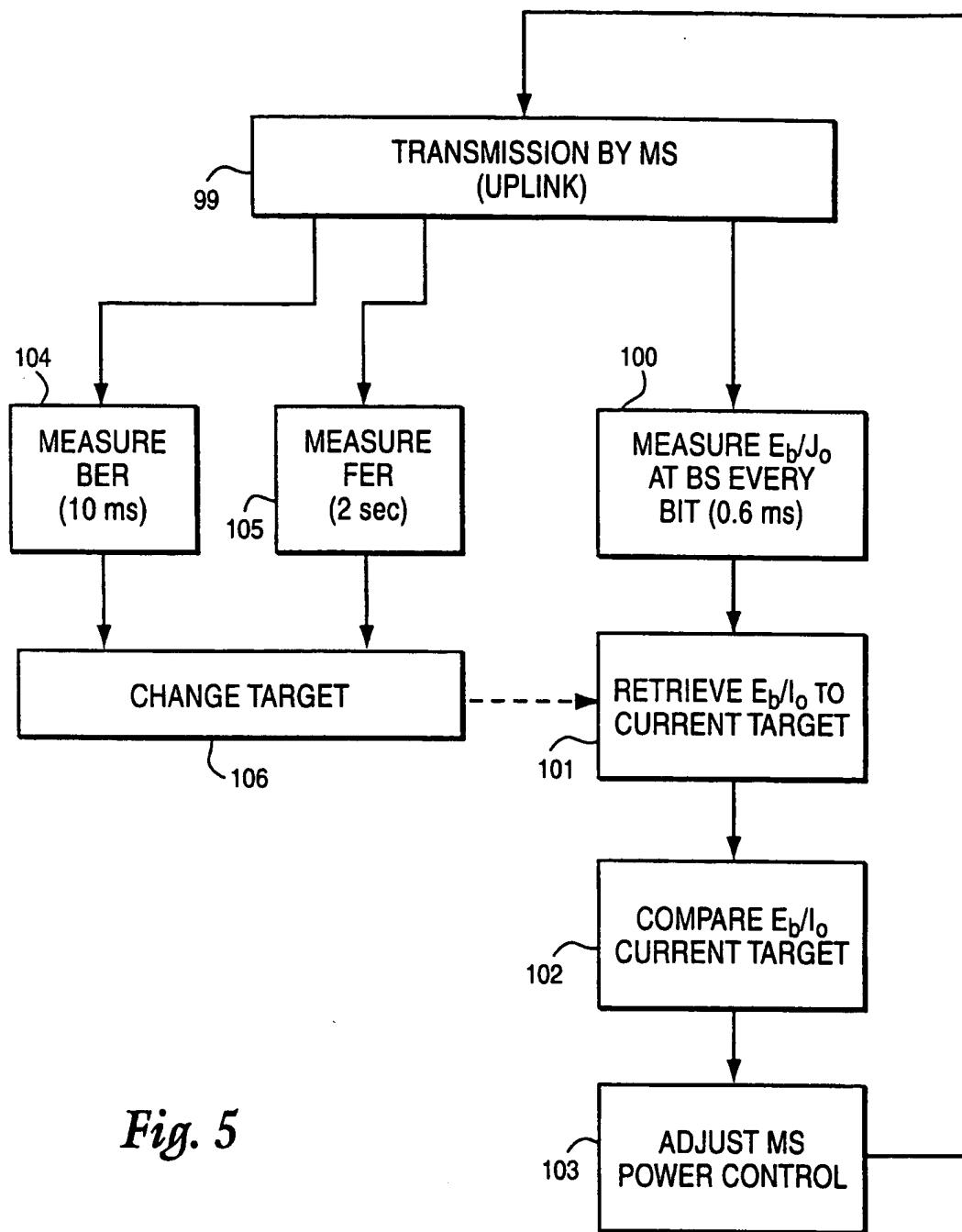


Fig. 5

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/SE 00/01036

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H04B7/005										
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC										
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H04B										
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched										
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal										
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Category *</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;">Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">X</td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"> EP 0 853 393 A (NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE) 15 July 1998 (1998-07-15) abstract; figures 1-4 column 1, line 21 - line 44 column 2, line 32 -column 4, line 42 column 5, line 15 - line 44 column 6, line 19 -column 7, line 1 column 8, line 4 - line 36 --- -/-/ </td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"> 1,4, 8-11,14, 18,19, 22, 26-29,32 2,3,5-7, 12,13, 15-17, 20,21, 23-25, 30,31, 33-36 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;">A</td> <td style="text-align: left; padding: 2px;"></td> <td style="text-align: center; padding: 2px;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	EP 0 853 393 A (NIPPON TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE) 15 July 1998 (1998-07-15) abstract; figures 1-4 column 1, line 21 - line 44 column 2, line 32 -column 4, line 42 column 5, line 15 - line 44 column 6, line 19 -column 7, line 1 column 8, line 4 - line 36 --- -/-/	1,4, 8-11,14, 18,19, 22, 26-29,32 2,3,5-7, 12,13, 15-17, 20,21, 23-25, 30,31, 33-36	A		
Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.								
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A										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.										
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 19 September 2000										
Date of mailing of the international search report 27/09/2000										
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